

Training Ambassador Pilot Program – L16PS00289 – Questions and Answers

1. How is this pilot program (TAPP) differs from T.I.P.? Is there any difference in payment?

The Trainer Incentive Program (TIP) is still active. The Trainer Ambassador Pilot Program (TAPP) is not replacing TIP. To apply to be a TIP trainer, we encourage interested parties to reach out to the Mustang Heritage Foundation at 512-869-3225 or click [here](#).

TIP is available nationwide; however, TAPP is currently only being tested in states that border or are east of the Mississippi River to help increase the number of trained animals available for adoption or purchase.

TAPP requires a higher level of training prior to trainer reimbursement. For example, the horse has to be ready to ride under saddle prior to placement into private care under the TAPP. Horses trained through TIP must be able, at a minimum, **to be haltered, led, groomed, pick up all four feet, and load/unload into a trailer**. TAPP also requires the trainer to be available to the new adopter for questions during a post-placement time frame. Please refer to the solicitation for the complete list of TAPP requirements.

TIP has a set payment structure that is described on the program's website. Trainers interested in submitting a proposal for TAPP must include their proposed rates for feed, care, farrier expenses, transportation expenses, and a training stipend.

2. Why isn't this program being offered in the Western States where there are currently a lot of BLM horses?

This pilot program is focused on helping increase the number of trainers and locations in the Eastern United States where potential adopters can access trained animals. Currently, we have numerous off-range corrals in the West that allow for access for potential trainers and adopters; therefore, trainers in the remaining states can still apply to train wild horses through the TIP, Storefront, and Extreme Mustang Makeover programs.

***this answer has been posted online on the TAPP website*

3. What is a DUN number and why do we need one?

A DUNS (Data Universal Number System) number is a unique nine-digit identification number for businesses provided by [Dun & Bradstreet](#) (D&B). It is required for all businesses applying for Federal grants and/or cooperative agreements. Obtaining a DUNS number is free, and applicants can call D&B toll-free at **1-866-705-5711** to obtain a number or find out if your business already has a number. Applicants can find out more [online](#); BLM has also posted this [factsheet](#) on the TAPP page.

4. Is there a set rate per horse or is compensation negotiable?

Each trainer who submits a proposal must include his/her proposed rates for feed, care, farrier expenses, and transportation expenses, along with a proposed amount for the training stipend that the trainer receives after the horse meets the stated training requirements and is

adopted/sold. BLM anticipates that submitted proposals will have some variation from trainer to trainer and by geographic region. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the BLM contracting office may contact trainers to negotiate rates.

5. I am curious about the horses in the program, how they are selected, and what is their current condition is like?

Each selected Trainer Ambassador will select his/her horse(s) for the program. All animals will have had vaccinations, deworming and hoof care prior to pickup, and BLM will make every effort to provide horses that have a Henneke body condition score between 4 and 7.

6. Are these horses recently round-up? Have they been castrated/vaccinated/coggins, etc? Or do those things need to be done in our care?

There is a variety of horses in BLM holding facilities. Some horses have recently been gathered from their herd management areas while others were gathered anywhere from several months to several years ago. There are also horses that were born in the Off-Range Corrals. Trainer Ambassadors can select the horse(s) they want to work with, and BLM staff at each Off-Range Corral can provide more information about specific horses.

Before leaving a BLM Off-Range Corral, male horses will usually be gelded, and all horses will be vaccinated for Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis, Influenza, West Nile, Tetanus, Rhino, and Strep. They will have been tested for EIA as well as have a valid Coggins and health certificate.

7. Have they been quarantined before they are placed available for us? Are they pre-selected for us, or can we choose our own horse?

Each trainer can select his/her own horse. The horses will be coming from BLM Off-Range Corrals where they live with other BLM horses, so they have not been quarantined.

8. What, if any, is their current level of handling?

The horses participating in this program will have had very minimal prior handling. They will have only been handled in the process of providing normal feed and care, such as vaccinating, hoof trimming, and de-worming.

9. How long have they been in the holding facilities in general? And what if any handling have they had since round up?

Please see answers to Questions #6 and #8 above.

10. Logistical considerations: We don't have a BLM round up in Maryland, so am I expected to arrange transportation for a wild horse from out west to Maryland? Isn't that traumatic for them? Does BLM have a pick up location closer than the Midwest? How do most people get these horses home safely?

Yes; trainers are expected to arrange transportation or pick up their horses on their own. You can find a list of BLM holding Off-Range Corrals/adoption centers [here](#). Selected trainers may also work with BLM to pick up animals at BLM satellite adoption events held in the Eastern States Region. A schedule of the BLM adoption events can be found [here](#).

11. Where are the horses located? Will I be reimbursed for travel?

You can find a list of Off-Range Corrals/adoption centers [here](#). Trainers can be reimbursed for travel if they include their anticipated travel expenses in their proposal.

12. I understand from the article published in the “The Horse” magazine that there is a pre-agreed upon flat rate of pay, but it isn’t clear how the horse is sold? Do I market and sell the horse? Does he go to one of the Mustang Challenge style auctions?

It is the responsibility of each TAPP trainer to create a marketing/promotion strategy that will help place the horse into a new home. If the trainer anticipates difficulties securing an adopter/buyer, s/he must notify BLM 45 days before the end of the 180-day training period to request that the trained animal be offered at scheduled BLM satellite adoption events (locally or out of state within 400 miles) or via the BLM website.

13. Can I keep him/her if that is what I decide I want to do in the end? Does the horse go back to BLM to be moved on? Is there a maximum timeline for the program? A date the horse has to come back to BLM?

A trainer may adopt the trained animal for him/herself but will forfeit the training fee.

The expected training period for an animal to meet the training requirements is 180 days. If a Trainer Ambassador is unable to find an adopter/buyer, place the horse in a sponsored BLM advanced training program or meet the training requirements within this timeframe, s/he may be allowed to keep the horse in training until an adopter/buyer or a sponsored BLM advanced training program is found, but BLM will reduce the daily feed and care rate that is paid by 50%. If the trainer chooses not to keep the horse in training, it must be returned to BLM.

14. I also understand that the goal is to take the horse from wild to “rideable” does that mean these horses are screened in some way for physical issues that would prevent ride ability?

It is the responsibility of each trainer to select his/her own horse(s) based on characteristics that s/he feels would indicate rideability and trainability. However, the trainer may notify the BLM, within two weeks of initial horse pickup, of any physical defects or personality traits that may make the animal unsuitable for training and have the opportunity to return the horse and select another one. No more than three returns will be allowed within a year.

15. What is the minimum amount of time to train the horse?

Contractors will have 180 days to complete training and adopting the horse. The period of performance is one six month base period and one six month option period. Extending the contract an additional six months if the service has not been completed within the first six months is at the discretion of the government.

Training will not be considered complete until the horse has met all training requirements listed in the Statement of Work. All training must be conducted using minimal resistance or natural horsemanship techniques and all animals must be maintained, treated, and handled in a humane manner.

16. Is the feed per day a flat fee? How is it billed?

The daily feed rate is a flat fee that the trainer proposes in his/her TAPP proposal. Selected trainers will receive their feed, care, farrier, and transportation fees monthly in arrears as invoiced, but will not receive their training fee until all training requirements have been met and the horse has either been sold/adopted or placed into a sponsored BLM advanced training program.

17. The SOW states in section F “Costs for routine veterinary care including updating vaccinations, deworming and dental care for horses in training more than 180 days will be reimbursed up to \$200 annually to the contractor. Costs for emergency treatment and possible dental care by a veterinarian (for conditions such as sudden illnesses, colic, injuries) up to \$500 will be reimbursed to the contractor if the BLM PI or COR is notified within 24 hours of treatment”. Is the contractor not responsible for care after 180 days?

If a Trainer Ambassador is unable to find an adopter/buyer, place the horse in a sponsored BLM advanced training program or meet the training requirements within the expected 180-day training period, s/he may be allowed to keep the horse in training until an adopter/buyer or sponsored BLM advanced training program is found, but BLM will reduce the daily feed and care rate that it pays by 50%. Vet care will continue up to the annual threshold as stated above.